

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

## ***Schumer Study: Rising Fuel Prices Squeeze New York's Farmers; Fuel Costs Increase 35% In 27 Months***

Fuel costs are squeezing farmers across Upstate New York who need gasoline, diesel and other fuels to run their tractors, combines, greenhouses, and other equipment that power New York's agriculture markets. Agricultural fuel costs have risen over 35 percent since 2002, forcing New York's 35,466 farmers to pay an average of \$2,534 in additional fuel costs. Not only do high energy prices result in increased fertilizer prices (natural gas can account for up to 90% of the cost to produce nitrogen fertilizers), they also result in increased costs to run the equipment needed to apply that fertilizer. In addition, this winter farmers paid high heating bills to keep their barns and greenhouses warm. Farmers will also suffer from high costs when they bring their goods to market as trucking prices, highly dependent on fuel costs, continue to rising. Fuel costs index includes gasoline, diesel, LP gas, which is propane and butane, and other miscellaneous fuels.

In the Capital Region there are **3,956 farms**; they paid a total of **\$8.3 million** in extra fuel costs. Over the past 27 months, the average Capital Region farmer has spent an additional \$1,964 on fuel in comparison to 2002 costs and prices.

County	Number of Farms	Total Extra Cost of Gas To County's Farmers	Average Extra Cost Per Farmer
Albany	461	\$1,155,000	\$2,505
Fulton	241	\$338,000	\$1,401
Montgomery	571	\$1,551,000	\$2,716
Rensselaer	520	\$858,000	\$1,650
Saratoga	590	\$1,167,000	\$1,978
Schenectady	200	\$307,000	\$1,534
Schoharie	531	\$732,000	\$1,378
Washington	842	\$2,148,000	\$2,551
Capital Region Total	3,956	\$8,255,000	\$1,964

In Central New York there are **3,548 farms**; they paid a total of **\$8.3 million** in extra fuel costs. Over the past 27 months, the average Central New York farmer spent **\$2,365** more on fuel in comparison to 2002 costs and prices.

County	Number of Farms	Total Extra Cost of Gas To County's Farmers	Average Extra Cost Per Farmer
<b>Onondaga</b>	649	\$2,551,000	\$3,869
<b>Cortland</b>	523	\$1,062,000	\$2,030
<b>Madison</b>	688	\$1,936,000	\$2,814
<b>Oneida</b>	1,030	\$1,997,000	\$1,939
<b>Oswego</b>	658	\$771,000	\$1,171
<b>Central New York Total</b>	<b>3,548</b>	<b>\$8,277,000</b>	<b>\$2,365</b>

In the Finger Lakes there are **6,057 farms**; they paid a total of **17.4 million** in extra fuel costs. Over the past 27 months, the average Central New York farmer spent **\$2,721** more on fuel in comparison to 2002 costs and prices.

County	Number of Farms	Total Extra Cost of Gas To County's Farmers	Average Extra Cost Per Farmer
<b>Monroe</b>	630	\$1,562,000	\$2,480
<b>Cayuga</b>	868	\$2,952,000	\$3,401
<b>Livingston</b>	750	\$2,575,000	\$3,434
<b>Ontario</b>	858	\$2,494,000	\$2,907
<b>Schuyler</b>	387	\$499,000	\$1,289
<b>Seneca</b>	451	\$1,359,000	\$3,012
<b>Tompkins</b>	509	\$1,070,000	\$2,101
<b>Wayne</b>	907	\$3,553,000	\$3,896
<b>Yates</b>	697	\$1,374,000	\$1,971
<b>Finger Lakes Total</b>	<b>6,057</b>	<b>\$17,418,000</b>	<b>\$2,721</b>

In the Hudson Valley there are **3,064 farms**; they paid a total of **\$10.1** million in extra fuel costs. Over the past 27 months, the average Hudson Valley farmer spent **\$3,297** more on fuel in comparison to 2002 costs and prices.

County	Number of Farms	Total Extra Cost of Gas to County's Farmers	Average Extra Cost Per Farmer
Orange	702	\$2,346,000	\$3,342
Dutchess	511	\$1,190,000	\$2,328
Columbia	500	\$3,154,000	\$6,308
Greene	317	\$1,184,000	\$3,736
Sullivan	362	\$826,000	\$2,281
Ulster	482	\$1,115,000	\$2,314
Westchester	115	\$318,000	\$2,768
Putnam	51	No data	No data
Rockland	24	No data	No data
<b>Hudson Valley Total</b>	<b>3,064</b>	<b>\$10,133</b>	<b>\$3,297</b>

In the North Country there are **5,139** farms. Since January, 2003 farmers paid a total of **\$11.8 million** in extra fuel costs. Over the past 27 months, the average North Country farmer spent **\$2,049** more on fuel in comparison to 2002 costs and prices.

County	Number of Farms	Total Extra Cost of Gas to County's Farmers	Average Extra Cost Per Farmer
St. Lawrence	1,402	\$2,949,000	\$2,103
Jefferson	1,018	\$2,736,000	\$2,687
Clinton	556	\$1,397,000	\$2,512
Essex	204	\$376,000	\$1,841
Franklin	508	\$1,249,000	\$2,458
Herkimer	660	\$1,438,000	\$2,178
Lewis	698	\$1,537,00	\$2,202
Warren	74	\$131,000	\$1,769
Hamilton	19	\$13,000	\$693
<b>North Country Total</b>	<b>5,139</b>	<b>\$11,824,000</b>	<b>\$2,049</b>

In the Southern Tier there are **6,476** farms. Since 2003 farmers paid a total of **\$12.3** million in extra fuel costs. Over the past 27 months, the average Southern Tier farmer spent **\$1,872** more on fuel in comparison to 2002 costs and prices.

County	Number of Farms	Total Extra Cost of Gas to County's Farmers	Average Extra Cost Per Farmer
<b>Steuben</b>	1,395	\$2,746,000	\$1,968
<b>Otsego</b>	1,028	\$2,425,000	\$2,359
<b>Broome</b>	582	\$1,280,000	\$2,200
<b>Delaware</b>	786	\$1,465,000	\$1,864
<b>Chenango</b>	929	\$1,155,000	\$1,243
<b>Chemung</b>	401	\$436,000	\$1,087
<b>Allegany</b>	761	\$1,029,000	\$1,353
<b>Tioga</b>	594	\$1,721,000	\$2,897
<b>Southern Tier Total</b>	<b>6,476</b>	<b>\$12,258,000</b>	<b>\$1,872</b>

In Western New York there are **6,542** farms; farmers paid a total of **\$16.5** million in extra fuel costs. Over the past 27 months, the average Western New York farmer spent **\$2,977** more on fuel in comparison to 2002 costs and prices.

County	Number of Farms	Total Extra Cost of Gas to County's Farmers	Average Extra Cost Per Farmer
<b>Erie</b>	1,266	\$2,319,000	\$1,832
<b>Chautauqua</b>	1,664	\$2,221,000	\$1,335
<b>Cattaraugus</b>	1,052	\$2,009,000	\$1,910
<b>Genesee</b>	568	\$2,890,000	\$5,088
<b>Niagara</b>	783	\$1,952,000	\$2,493
<b>Orleans</b>	479	\$1,616,000	\$3,375
<b>Wyoming</b>	730	\$3,507,000	\$4,804
<b>Western New York Total</b>	<b>6,542</b>	<b>\$16,514,000</b>	<b>\$2,977</b>

\*\* This study was based on the change in the fuel cost index published by the National Agricultural Statistical Service. New York State specific county by county data is from the 2002 Census of Agriculture. The only significant agricultural county not included in this study is Suffolk County on Long Island.